



## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Office of Investor Education and Advocacy  
Washington, DC 20549-0213

Extension: Rule 0-4

OMB Control No. 3235-0633, SEC File No. 270-569

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 0-4 (17 CFR 275.0-4) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Act" or "Advisers Act") (15 U.S.C. 80b-1 et seq.) entitled "General Requirements of Papers and Applications," prescribes general instructions for filing an application seeking exemptive relief with the Commission. Rule 0-4 currently requires that every application for an order for which a form is not specifically prescribed and which is executed by a corporation, partnership or other company and filed with the Commission contain a statement of the applicable provisions of the articles of incorporation, bylaws or similar documents, relating to the right of the person signing and filing such application to take such action on behalf of the applicant, and a statement that all such requirements have been complied with and that the person signing and filing the application is fully authorized to do so. If such authorization is dependent on resolutions of stockholders, directors, or other bodies, such resolutions must be attached as an exhibit to or quoted in the

application. Any amendment to the application must contain a similar statement as to the applicability of the original statement of authorization. When any application or amendment is signed by an agent or attorney, rule 0-4 requires that the power of attorney evidencing his authority to sign shall state the basis for the agent's authority and shall be filed with the Commission. Every application subject to rule 0-4 must be verified by the person executing the application by providing a notarized signature in substantially the form specified in the rule. Each application subject to rule 0-4 must state the reasons why the applicant is deemed to be entitled to the action requested with a reference to the provisions of the Act and rules thereunder, the name and address of each applicant, and the name and address of any person to whom any questions regarding the application should be directed. Rule 0-4 requires that a proposed notice of the proceeding initiated by the filing of the application accompany each application as an exhibit and, if necessary, be modified to reflect any amendment to the application.

The requirements of rule 0-4 are designed to provide Commission staff with the necessary information to assess whether granting the orders of exemption are necessary and appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the intended purposes of the Act.

Applicants for orders under the Advisers Act can include registered investment advisers, affiliated persons of registered investment advisers, and entities seeking to avoid investment adviser status, among others. Commission staff estimates that it receives up to 9 applications per year submitted under rule 0-4 of the Act seeking relief from various provisions of the Advisers Act and, in addition, up to 7 applications per year submitted under Advisers Act rule 206(4)-5, which addresses certain "pay to play" practices and also provides the Commission the authority

to grant applications seeking relief from certain of the rule's restrictions. Although each application typically is submitted on behalf of multiple applicants, the applicants in the vast majority of cases are related entities and are treated as a single respondent for purposes of this analysis. Most of the work of preparing an application is performed by outside counsel and, therefore, imposes no hourly burden on respondents. The cost outside counsel charges applicants depends on the complexity of the issues covered by the application and the time required. Based on conversations with applicants and attorneys, and recent analyses by the Commission,<sup>1</sup> the cost for applications ranges from approximately \$12,800 for preparing a well-precedented, routine (or otherwise less involved) application to approximately \$200,000 to prepare a complex or novel application. We estimate that the Commission receives 2 of the most time-consuming applications annually, 4 applications of medium difficulty, and 10 of the least difficult applications subject to rule 0-4.<sup>2</sup> This distribution gives a total estimated annual cost burden to applicants of filing all applications of \$702,000 [(2x\$200,000) + (4x\$43,500) + (10x\$12,800)]. The estimate of annual cost burden is made solely for the purposes of the

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<sup>1</sup> See *Family Offices*, Investment Advisers Act Release No. 3220 (June 22, 2011), at section IV.A (“We estimate that a typical family office will incur legal fees of \$200,000 on average to engage in the exemptive order application process, including preparation and revision of an application and consultations with Commission staff.”) Although the Commission may receive fewer exemptive applications from family offices in light of rule 202(a)(11)(G)-1, which defines family offices that are now excluded from regulation under the Advisers Act, the costs to prepare family office applications may be representative of the costs required to prepare other more complex and novel applications. See also *Political Contributions by Certain Investment Advisers*, Investment Advisers Act Release No. 3043 (July 1, 2010), at section V.D. (estimating that applications filed under Advisers Act rule 206(4)-5 “will cost approximately \$12,800”).

<sup>2</sup> The estimated 10 least difficult applications include the estimated 7 applications per year submitted under Advisers Act rule 206(4)-5. The Commission previously estimated that these applications will cost approximately \$12,800 each. *Id.*

Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms.

The requirements of this collection of information are required to obtain or retain benefits. Responses will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Thomas Bayer, Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an email to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

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Deputy Secretary

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